



*Maritime OPINTEL Report*

**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)  
Report**

***4 August 2013 – 4 September 2013***

5 September 2013

*Maritime Crime/Piracy*

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**1. (U) Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

**2. (U) Summary**

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 September, an underway chemical tanker was fired upon 20 nm south of Pennington Oil Terminal.

2. (U) VIETNAM: On 3 September, an anchored chemical tanker was boarded at the Vung Tau Anchorage.

3. (U) VIETNAM: On 28 August, an anchored bulk carrier was boarded while at Cam Pha Anchorage.

4. (U) BANGLADESH: On 27 August, an anchored container ship was boarded while at Chittagong Anchorage.

5. (U) SINGAPORE: On 18 August, an underway barge was boarded approximately 5.6 nm south of Tanjung Setapa.

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 August, an anchored product tanker was boarded approximately 1.83 nm southeast of Teluk Ramunia.

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 August, an anchored bulk carrier was boarded at the Muara Berau Anchorage.

8. (U) BANGLADESH: On 4 August, an anchored product tanker was boarded at the Chittagong Anchorage.

### 3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for August and September 2013. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit [http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime\\_fr2\\_000000.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html), please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA).

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for August and September 2013. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at (INMARSAT: 870-773-110-374), (Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com) (MSCHOA).

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for August and September 2013. For further information, please e-mail cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn, cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn, or call Tel: 86-10-652-92221 Fax: 86-10-652-92245 (MSCHOA).

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for August and September 2013. To register, email antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com or dgcommcentre@satyammil.net, or visit [www.dgshipping.com](http://www.dgshipping.com). Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636 (MSCHOA).

### 4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) **NORTH AMERICA**: No current incidents to report.

B. (U) **CENTRAL AMERICA–CARIBBEAN**: No current incidents to report.

C. (U) **SOUTH AMERICA**: No current incidents to report.

D. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA**: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC**: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA**: No current incidents to report.

G. (U) **WEST AFRICA**:

1. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 4 September, an underway chemical tanker was fired upon at position 04:11 N – 005:34 E, 20 nm south of Pennington Oil Terminal. A speed boat approached the chemical tanker with intent to board. The duty officer raised the alarm, alerted the crew and made evasive maneuvers to prevent the boarding. The pirates tried to board the vessel using hooks attached to a rope. The on board security team fired warning shots at the boat and the pirates retaliated by returning fire. Facing resistance, the pirates aborted the attempt and moved away from the scene. (IMB, OCL)

2. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 15 August, the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged tanker BLUEGREEN TIGRE experienced an attempted boarding in the vicinity of 06:21 N – 003:28 E, at the Lagos Anchorage. Approximately 8-10 robbers, in a speed boat, attempted to place a hook on the tanker's railing. They were spotted by the crew and the alarm was raised. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing crew alertness, the pirates' boat moved away. Other ships were informed on VHF radio. Local authorities were informed and a naval patrol arrived at the location and conducted a search. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

3. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 15 August, the Nigeria-flagged product tanker NORTE was boarded in the Gulf of Guinea. On 17 August, the vessel was reportedly chased by vessels from the Nigerian Navy; to include two Navy ships of destroyer-size, 6 gun boats, and patrol plane from the Nigerian Air Force. The Nigerian forces surrounded the tanker in the Niger Delta region. The pirates attempted to flee the tanker when night fell, but were intercepted. During the ensuing gun battle 12 pirates were killed and 4 were captured. No details on the fate of the crew were given. The tanker is presently anchored in Lagos. (Fleetmon.com, News.odin.tc)

4. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 12 August, a Nigeria-flagged offshore support vessel was fired upon approximately 35nm off the Nigerian coast. Two gunboats with approximately 7 - 8 pirates on board fired upon the vessel. A near-by patrol boat responded to the emergency calls. The patrol boat exchanged fire with the pirates, resulting in the pirate boats retreating north at high speed. (OCL)

5. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 12 August, the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged chemical tanker SP ATLANTA was hijacked at 06:19 N – 003:27 E, at the Lagos Anchorage. Approximately 11 pirates, armed with guns, boarded and hijacked the chemical tanker at anchor. They stole crew personal belongings and caused minor injuries to the crew members. On the 13 August, the vessel was released and safely arrived at the Lagos Anchorage. (IMB, IMO, reuters.com, gcaptain.com)

6. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 11 August, robbers in a small skiff attempted to board the anchored Liberia-flagged product tanker FPMC 25 at 06:18 N – 003:26 E, at the Lagos Anchorage. Master raised the alarm and mustered the crew, while embarked armed guards fired warning shots, resulting in the skiff moving away. (IMB, OCL)

**H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:**

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 27 August, the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged container ship NADIR was boarded while at position 22:11 N - 091:42 E, Chittagong Anchorage. Approximately 16 robbers in two boats approached the ship. Five robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship and began to lower ship's stores into their boats. Duty officer noticed the robbers, raised the alarm and crew mustered. Seeing crew alertness the robbers escaped with stolen ship stores. Incident reported to the coast guard. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 16 August, the anchored Liberia-flagged container ship HENRIETTE SCHULTE was boarded at 22:10 N – 091:42 E, at the Chittagong Anchorage. Four robbers, armed with knives, boarded the anchored container ship. The Officer of the Watch spotted them and immediately raised the alarm. All crew mustered. Seeing crew alertness, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped with stolen ship stores. Local authorities were informed. (IMB)

3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 August, a fishing trawler was hijacked, along with the kidnapping of 15 fishermen along the Meghna River. A gang of pirates attacked three trawlers in the Talia Char area. When the fishermen tried to resist the bandits, they opened fire, injuring one man. The pirates looted valuables from the trawlers and kidnapped the 15 fishermen onboard. (dhakatribune.com, newstoday.com)

4. (U) BANGLADESH: On 14 August, two fishing trawlers were hijacked, along with the kidnapping of 21 fishermen, along the Meghna River. Local authorities managed to rescue 10 of the kidnapped fishermen soon after the incident. (dhakatribune.com, newstoday.com)

5. (U) BANGLADESH: On 10 August, the anchored Singapore-flagged container ship KOTA HARTA was boarded at 22:09 N – 091:47 E, at the Chittagong Anchorage. Three robbers boarded the ship from the poop deck, using a hook and rope. Upon discovering the robbers, the duty watchman immediately raised the alarm. Two of the robbers jumped overboard while the third robber grabbed the life-ring from the ship and threw it overboard before escaping in a small wooden boat. (IMO)

6. (U) BANGLADESH: On 4 August, the anchored Hong Kong-flagged product tanker ST. MICHAELIS was boarded at 22:11 N – 091:41 E, at the Chittagong Anchorage. While at anchor, robbers boarded the vessel from astern. When the alarm was raised, the crew locked itself in the superstructure. (IMO)

I. (U) PERSIAN GULF: No current incidents to report.

**J. (U) SOUTHEAST ASIA:**

1. (U) VIETNAM: On 3 September, an anchored chemical tanker was boarded at 10:13 N – 107:02 E, at the Vung Tau Anchorage. Six robbers disguised as fishermen boarded a chemical tanker at anchor. Duty crewman noticed the robbers and informed the bridge. The alarm was raised and the crew moved forward. Upon seeing the alert crew, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped with ship's stores. All crew safe. (IMB, OCL)

2. VIETNAM: On 28 August, the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier was boarded while at position 20:56 N – 107:19 E, Cam Pha Anchorage. Six robbers boarded the ship via the anchor chain and hawse pipe by removing the cover and anchor lashing. They cut the padlock to the forecastle store room and stole ship's properties. Duty officer noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship stores. Incident reported to the local police who boarded the ship for investigation. (IMB)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 August, the Philippines-flagged berthed live stock carrier BRAHMAN EXPRESS was boarded in the vicinity of 03:47 N – 098:42 E, at the Belawan Port. Three robbers, in a motor boat, approached a berthed live stock carrier. Two robbers boarded the ship, while the other robber remained in the boat. The duty crew noticed that the robbers were stealing ship's properties and reported it to the duty officer who then raised the alarm and alerted the crew. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with the stolen properties. The incident was reported to Belawan Port Authority, which dispatched a coast guard patrol boat to investigate. (IMB, IMO)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 August, the Marshall Islands-flagged anchored bulk carrier TEQUILA SUNRISE was boarded at 01:15 S – 117:36 E, at the Samarinda Working Anchorage. The Deck Cadet on duty noticed the forward store had been forced open. He immediately informed the watch officer. Inventory of the store revealed that some stores were stolen. Local authorities were informed. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 August, an anchored bulk carrier was boarded at 00:16 S – 117:36 E, at the Muara Berau Anchorage. Five robbers, armed with knives, boarded an anchored bulk carrier. Three of the robbers caught the duty crewman, threatened him with a knife on his neck, took his walkie-talkie, and tied him up. The robbers broke the lock of the forward store and began to steal ship's stores. While the robbers were busy stealing the ship's stores, the duty crewman managed to free himself and then reported to the duty officer on the bridge who raised the alarm and alerted the crew. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen stores. The incident was reported to port control. (IMB, OCL)

6. (U) SINGAPORE: On 18 August, the underway Malaysian-flagged barge M3320 was boarded at 01:15 N – 104:07 E, approximately 5.6 nm south of Tanjung Setapa. While underway, unidentified persons onboard 2-3 small wooden boats approached and boarded the barge, while in tow by the tugboat, BAHTERA MULIA. At that time, the tug and barge were enroute from Malacca to Labuan, and the barge was loaded with oil rig spare parts. The robbers likely stole property off the barge. (IMO)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 August, the anchored Honduras-flagged product tanker MORESBY 9 was boarded at 01:20 N – 104:16 E, approximately 1.83 nm southeast of Teluk Ramunia. While at anchor, 10 robbers armed with machetes, wearing face masks, approached the vessel, in two speed boats colored white and grey. They boarded the vessel and tied the crew up in the mess room. The robbers then ordered the Master to get underway and, while sailing, the robbers escaped at the port side of the vessel when they saw an Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) vessel approaching. (IMO)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 August, the anchored Panama-flagged bulk carrier KAYU EBONI

was boarded at 00:16 S – 117:36 E, at the Muara Berau Anchorage. Five robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored bulk carrier. Three of the robbers caught the duty crewman, threatened him with a knife on his neck, took his walkie-talkie, and tied him up. The robbers broke the lock of the forward store and began to steal ship's stores. While the robbers were busy stealing the ship's stores, the duty crewman managed to free himself and reported to the duty officer on the bridge who raised the alarm and alerted the crew. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen stores. Incident reported to port control. (IMO)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 10 August, the anchored Isle of Man-flagged bulk carrier STAR MANX was boarded at 00:16 S – 117:36 E, at the Samarinda Anchorage. Three robbers in boiler suits boarded the anchored bulk carrier which was waiting to link up with a cargo barge. The robbers seized the third officer who was on routine rounds at the forecastle. They hit him and threatened him with a knife, while five other robbers boarded the ship, broke the hatch cover with pipes and crowbars, and began to steal ship's stores. When seeing duty crew approach the forecastle, the robbers disembarked the vessel and escaped in a speed boat with the stolen stores. Upon investigation, it was found that the robbers boarded the ship by breaking the hawse pipe security steel grill/cover bolt and nut lock. (IMB, IMO, OCL, Tradewinds)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 August, the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged oil/chemical tanker GARNET EXPRESS was boarded and robbed at an undisclosed port/anchorage. (OCL)

K. (U) **NORTH ASIA:** No current incidents to report.

L. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN:** No current incidents to report.

M. (U) **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NON-STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS:** No current incidents to report.

## **5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources**

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

### **(U) Contact**

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

### **(U) Other Resources**

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International

Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: [http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence\\_Community/piracy.htm](http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm)

## 6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

### (U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- (U) **Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- (U) **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

### (U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)



- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- Oceanuslive.org (OCL), website
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters.com (Reuters), website
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Secure Anchorage Area West Africa (SAA)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) **ICOD:** 4 September 2013